

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

April 5, 2016

In 1995, brothers Ed and Bernie Massey founded Portraits of Hope (POH), a nonprofit program that merges the production and exhibition of public art with creative therapy for hospitalized children, as well as civics education for students of all ages. Ed and Bernie Massey have involved tens of thousands of children and adults in large scale civic collaborations in the U.S. and abroad. These collaborations have strikingly transformed airplanes, buildings, the New York City taxi fleet, blimps, tugboats, race cars, the Los Angeles County coastal lifeguard towers and the Art Spheres at MacArthur Park in Los Angeles.

More than one thousand hospitals, schools and social service agencies have directly participated in POH programs and activities. The majority of youth served by POH regularly face socioeconomic and/or physical or medical challenges. Special brushes and methodologies have been developed for children and adults with physical disabilities, including telescope brushes for those in wheel chairs, shoe brushes for people unable to manipulate a brush with their hands, and fruit-flavored mouth brushes for children and adults with limited or no movement in their limbs.

For children in hospitals, participation in POH projects serves as creative therapy

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

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and an opportunity to engage in enriching activities with family, friends, and hospital staff. Also, POH provide children who face daily challenges of pain, isolation and fear with joyous and innovated therapeutic outlets while accomplishing the unimaginable.

POH's core education program focuses on social issues education, with an emphasis placed on how youth can integrate their personal ambitions with broader societal objectives. During the sessions, children learn about the importance of civic education, creativity and teamwork in achieving both individual and community goals. They then experience the power of teamwork by engaging in collaborative sessions for the creation of the vibrant, large-scale public art works.

Ed and Bernie Massey have come to us with a proposal to revitalize our seven Los Angeles County Animal Care Centers that would culminate in a temporary art exhibition to visually transform our animal care centers, encompassing many thousands of square feet of hand-painted, all-weather panels. The County would determine the actual length of the exhibition term pursuant to the interests of the respective care center facilities. During the temporary exhibition, the care centers themselves would become works of art. This transformation would likely attain regional, national and international recognition while focusing positive attention on the County and its participating agencies for their innovative civic spirit and commitment to the promotion of pet adoption.

A floral motif is a core visual element of Portraits of Hope program as the flower is the universal symbol of life, beauty, hope, inspiration, nature, renewal and is accessible to participants and viewers of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. A shapes motif would be implemented in small sections as youth will be shaping the future. The animal theme will be directly related and reconnected to the environment of the project

and the goal of promoting pet adoptions. Portraits of Hope will fund this program 100% and no County funding is expected.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Director of Animal and Care and Control work with Ed Massey and Bernie Massey from Portraits of Hope on this Countywide Public Art program and involve participation from all of the LA County Board Offices, CEO, LACOE, all County hospitals, and the Arts Commission.

S: MCC/Portraits of Hope